28. **Town Improvement Committees.**—The number of Town Improvement Committees rose from 15 to 19, four new Committees having been established at Kuzhittura, Mavelikara, Haripad and Attungal. The rules for the election of non-official members were revised during the year and the privilege of electing all the non-official members was granted to the towns of Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam, Shencottah and Kayankulam. It was resolved to have a non-official as President of the Alleppey Committee. Mr. F. F. Mackay, one of the leading merchants of Alleppey, accepted the office and displayed considerable energy and business capacity in the discharge of his duties. Owing to urgent private reasons, he resigned his office. The Government have been able to secure, in his place, the services of Mr. K. A. Krishna Aiyangar, B. A., B. L., a leading lawyer and public-spirited citizen of Alleppey. The Committees began with a balance of Rs. 41,479. Their collections rose from Rs. 63,405 to Rs. 80,224. Including the Government grant of Rs. 43,624, the total amount available for expenditure by the Committees was Rs. 1,65,327, of which a sum of Rs. 1,16,109 was spent, leaving a balance of Rs. 49,218.

29. **Medical.**—Two additional dispensaries were opened during the year, *viz.*, those at Perumbavur and Kuttattukulam, and grants were given to three new Vaidyasalas.

EDUCATION.

30. Education continued to make steady progress. Though the total number of recognised schools showed only a slight increase from 1,763 to 1,771, their strength rose considerably from 2,04,971 to 2,25,341. Taking the school-going population at 15 per cent of the total population, 43·8 per cent received instruction in recognised schools, against 39·8 per cent in 1088. The minimum age for candidates appearing for the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination was reduced from 14 to 13 in the case of boys and 12 in the case of girls. The concession of half-fee rates was extended to the Pariah community.

31. The appointment of a Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction was sanctioned, to help him in his office work. An additional Inspector and six additional Assistant Inspectors of Elementary Schools for Boys were appointed, the State being divided into 3 ranges with 6 districts for each range.

32. The B. A. Honors classes in English and History were opened in His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Boys, from the beginning of the current academic year. Sanction was accorded to the addition to the College staff of a third Professor of English and of a Junior Professor and an additional Assistant Professor of History. The new Professor of English is expected to be a specialist in Philology. A suitable person is likely to be selected soon. The salaries of the European and Indian Professors of the College were equalised. The staff of His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Girls was revised.

33. The revision of the staff of Elementary schools was completed. Six more departmental Lower Grade Training schools for male teachers were opened, thus raising the number of these institutions to 10. Orders were passed on the report of the Vernacular Education Committee. While agreeing with the Committee generally in the view that the instruction imparted in Elementary schools admitted of improvement, Government pointed out the necessity for building on the existing foundation, extending the course of the School Leaving Certificate *gradually* from seven to nine years, revising the curriculum, and improving the teaching staff and the efficiency of inspection. The revision of the Inspectorate noted above, and the opening of new Training schools for Elementary school teachers were the outcome of that order. It is contemplated to institute a Vernacular Higher Examination, but to restrict its scope to teachers in recognised schools. The resolutions passed at the Second Conference of the Head Masters of recognised Secondary

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Schools were considered and orders passed thereon. One of the chief recommendations at the Conference was to do away with the Public Service Endorsement in School Leaving Certificates. Apart from the general misapprehension that the endorsement implied success in the examination, the Government found that this arrangement, which had been adopted purely for the sake of administrative convenience, did not work satisfactorily, and resolved to leave the choice of candidates for employment to heads of departments, who could be guided by the marks recorded in the certificates of applicants. The system of endorsing the certificates for the public service was therefore abolished.

34. The Sanskrit Patasala was reorganised and raised to a College under a Principal. In regard to Mahomedan education, the Government regret to note that the number of Mahomedan pupils attending recognised schools fell from 4,957 to 4,853 and that the advantage of free education now given in Lower Grade Elementary Schools is not availed of by the community to any appreciable extent. The Government asked the Director of Public Instruction to investigate the question of Mahomedan education further, and submit practical proposals. The Director held a conference of Mahomedans on the 21st December 1914, and his report has just been received. The policy of throwing open schools to all classes of His Highness' subjects is being persisted in steadily. The question of the institution of a Provident Fund for the benefit of the licensed teachers of recognised Private Schools was taken up for consideration and a Committee was appointed to frame a scheme for instituting the fund. The report of the Committee has been received and published in the Gazette. Copies of the report will be distributed to you. His Highness has commanded that the opinion of select members of this Assembly should be taken on the subject. The question of refusing admission to married boys into the schools was brought up at the last two sessions of the Assembly. The subject has received the careful consideration of His Highness' Government and a G. O. has been issued recently declaring the inadvisability of importing any such restriction into the Education Code. The Text Book Committee has been reorganised and the Malayalam Sub-Committee strengthened, members outside the Education Department having also been appointed. It is a matter for regret that the Educational Boards had to be abolished, as it was found that they were not doing any appreciable work. A Public Service Notification has been issued prescribing not only the qualification for admission into the Public Service in general, but also the special qualification required for the technical departments of the State.

35. You will note from the figures given in para 209 of the Administration Report that the gross expenditure on "Education" in 1089 went up by over three lakhs of rupees *i. e.*, from Rs. 12,84,450 to Rs. 15,89,080. The expenditure is bound to increase still further. Although the Government fixed the budget allotment for the current year at about eighteen lakhs, additional funds to the extent of Rs. 50,000 had to be granted for additional staff and for relieving the congestion in the Higher Grade Elementary Schools by starting new Lower Grade Elementary Schools. The growing expenditure under "Education" calls for serious consideration.

RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

36. **Devaswoms.**—The scheme sanctioned for the reorganisation of the Devaswoms is being gradually worked out. The *pathivus* of 33 Minor Devaswoms, which either did not exist, or which had no *bimbams* or *pujas*, were stopped during the year. Proposals have been received for the revision of 95 Major Devaswoms, but final orders have been deferred, pending the receipt of additional information from the Peishkars. The repairs of several temples were in progress. The net demand of Devaswom Land Revenue during the year was Rs. 4,02,657, of which a sum of Rs. 3,85,607 was collected. The total expenditure on Devaswoms fell from Rs. 11,79,282 to Rs. 11,56,256. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 4,43,146, the net expenditure being Rs. 7,13,110, against Rs. 7,22,890 in 1088.

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